

Title : Environmental degradation due to the use of Endosulfan pesticide in the Northern side of Kerala.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to raise before this House a very-very serious issue. In the Northern part of Kerala, especially Kasargod district, for the last 15 years Endosulfan pesticide is being used without the local people or the local Government understanding the consequence of this pesticide. Now it is being realised that because of its use the environmental problems and health problems have increased a lot. In the last five years about 42 persons have died in this area and about thousand people are suffering from serious diseases.

Realising this fact, the Government of Kerala has constituted two Commissions; Atchuthan Commission and Sivaraman Commission. These Commissions along with certain experts have visited the place and examined the soil, water, plants, human blood, animal blood and even the breast milk. They have come to the conclusion that these environmental and health problems have arisen because of the use of Endosulfan pesticides. They have given a representation to the Central Government to ban the use of Endosulfan pesticides. The Central Government in turn has appointed the Dubey Commission. The Dubey Commission has visited the affected area but it did not consult any MP, MLA, Panchayat or any other local person. This Commission includes the members of the pesticide industry but does not include any local people. So, we feel that it is partial. A very big agitation is going on in Kasargod district. It is not the question of Kasargod or Kerala alone. It is the question of human beings as a whole.

Sir, the children in the age group of 2-3 years cannot speak and move. The women in the age group of 18-20 years cannot marry. They cannot have family life because they have deformities. So, we see cancer, asthma, tuberculosis and many other disease.

In the meantime, the Kerala High Court has banned it temporarily. But now the High Court has asked the Central Government to give their views. So, I would request and it is not only my request or of the State but it is the request of the human being as a whole to impose a complete ban on the endosulfan. The Central Government and the State Governments should make arrangements for rehabilitation of these poor people. They are in need of medical facilities. The compensation should be given to the family of those who have died. There is a need for the recreation centres for the mentally retarded people. They should also be given job opportunities. I would request the Government to take immediate action on this.